



**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

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99-73

February 25, 1999

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General Manager

Mr. Tom Gohring
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: CalFed Workshop on Water Use Efficiency

Dear Mr. Gohring:

The Contra Costa Water District hosted one of the four CalFed workshops on Water Use Efficiency on February 18, 1999. The District is strongly committed to Water Use Efficiency and would like the following points noted in the hearing record.

As a component of an overall CALFED program for the restoration of the Bay-Delta, the Contra Costa Water District supports a reasonable, balanced and economically responsible water use efficiency program. CCWD is an original signatory to the 1991 BMP MOU. This District has developed and operates a comprehensive and very successful water conservation program for its customers. Moreover, CCWD has made a long-term commitment to conservation as part of its 50-year water supply plan. As part of that plan the District has set reasonable targets for conservation and is committed to meeting those targets as an integral part of its future water supply.

CCWD believes that the Water Use Efficiency program proposed here can work, and should be considered for statewide adoption, but only as part of a total CALFED plan. That is, it can be implemented only if the other components of a CALFED program to restore the Bay-Delta move forward together. Further, the Water Use Efficiency program will need substantial state, and possibly federal, funding if it is to succeed, because water purveyors should only be expected to financially support conservation programs to the degree that they are fiscally feasible as part of the agency's overall water supply program. Additional conservation requirements that maybe considered as part of the CALFED program beyond those that are fiscally feasible for the water agency should only be considered if they are fully funded by other entities.

CCWD also calls on CALFED to redefine the water savings targets in its plan, basing its targets on critical dry year projections. The current CALFED projections of water savings potential are based on normal year conditions, and thereby significantly overstate the potential water that can be developed from conservation for reuse in

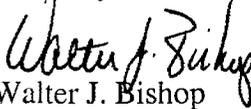
Mr. Tom Gohring
February 25, 1999
Page 2 of 2

California in critical dry years. This overstates the baseline potential of water savings from conservation.

CCWD remains committed to the CALFED Process and is determined to work with CALFED and the other stakeholders to make the Water Use Efficiency Program a useful component of a successful CALFED program.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call Al Donner at 925-688-8194.

Sincerely,


Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

WJB/AJD